

Remarks

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 15-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 15-24. Claim 25 has been amended herein to incorporate claim 15 and intervening claims 8, 13 and 14. This amendment necessitates the cancellation of Claims 8 and 13-15 and amendments to claims 9-11 and 16-21. Claim 22 was dependent upon claim 25. Claim 22 has been amended and is now an independent claim on which claims 23 and 24 depend. Additionally, claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 17, 19-20 and 24 have been amended to bring these dependent claims in line with independent claims 22 and 25.

In view of the forgoing, it is submitted that the claims are now patentable.

Claim Status

Claims 3-25 are pending in this application.

Claims 5 and 12 have been withdrawn from prosecution.

Claims 8, 13, 14 and 15 have been canceled and have been incorporated into new claim 25 as the main claim.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 16-22, 24 and 25 have been amended.

Claim Rejections

Claims 25, 4, 6, 8-11 and 13-14 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lawer, *et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication 20040090013), and claims 3 and 7 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawer.

In view of the amendments, this rejection is now moot.

Replacement Sheet 3


Replacement Sheet 3 contains Figures 2 and 3 and amends Figure 3 only. In Figure 3, two (2) reference characters 51 were used to refer to two different items. Reference character 51 in both cases identifies a collection channel, however, the description of Figure 3 on page 17 refers to the top 51, not the bottom, thus, the bottom 51 has been deleted from Figure 3.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition,

appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,
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